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"We will prepare tonight to strike until Christmas" Cesar Chavez, Director of the National Farm Workers Association, told his staff last night. "The general strike is gaining new strength as we begin our fourth week" he reported. "As the Emperor grape harvest begins, we will continue to picket. After the harvests when the pruning work begins, the strike will gain new momentum," Chavez told his twenty member staff. Chavez' National Farm Workers Association joined the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO, two weeks ago in a general grape strike against some twenty ranches in the northern Kern-southern Tulare County area.

"The strike is currently restraining more than half of the labor force in the two county area" Gilbert Padilla, picket captain reported. "Scabs from Bakersfield and Los Angeles are working on some ranches" he conceded, "but their performance is totally inadequate". Workers on strike are asking \$1.40 an hour and a union contract.

Chavez reviewed the significance of the strike: "This strike is the largest farm labor strike in this area since the '30s. It is unique because two unions are working together; because three major ethnic groups--the Filipinos, the Mexicans, and the Puerto Ricans--are united; and because the strike is based on principles of non-violence."

Picket captain Julio Hernandez outlined the principle tactics being used by growers to discourage pickets. These included use of radio communication systems to monitor the movement of pickets; use of discers to create dust storms to hide pickets; use of spray rigs to bathe pickets with sulphur. Hernandez commended the perseverance of pickets and thanked three volunteer staff workers from C.O.R.E. and S?N.C.C. for classes in non-violence which they have conducted for other staff members. Hernandez noted that ranchers would not invest so much time, talent, and resources in restraining strikers unless they were being hurt by the strike.

Chavez reported that a twenty car caravan from the Bay Area, led by Richard Groulx, Asst. Secretary of the Alameda Central Labor Council, and Leonard Levy, National Vice-President of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, would arrive in Delano Saturday at 2 p.m., bringing food, clothing, and money for strikers.